

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183078

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINT, YE, MR, SU

SUBJECT: SUDANESE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON PDRY AND
MAURITANIA

REF: KHARTOUM 3093

1. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
ON PDRY AND MAURITANIA IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR
SUDANESE OFFICIALS:

2. PDRY - SURFACE NORMALITY RETURNED TO ADEN FOLLOWING
THE JUNE 26 SUCCESSFUL COUP BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
NATIONAL FRONT PARTY ISMAIL AGAINST PRESIDENT SALIM
RUBAYI ALI. ALI AND TWO SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN EXECUTED
AND THERE ARE REPORTS THAT OTHER SYMPATHIZERS ARE BEING
ROUNDED UP BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT. POWER WITHIN THE NEW
GOVERNMENT WILL BE SHARED BY THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE
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PRESIDENT COUNCIL, PRIME MINISTER ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD,
PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL ABDEL FATTAH ISMAIL, AND
DEFENSE MINISTER ALI ANTAR. ISMAIL HAS ALSO EXPELLED
THREE OF THE NINE-MAN RULING POLITBURO AND APPOINTED
SEVERAL NEW ARMY COMMANDERS. ISMAIL IS CONSIDERED A
PRO-SOVIET MARXIST IDEOLOGUE. NEW GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE
CLOSER TIES TO THE SOVIET UNION AS A RESULT.

WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS OF DIRECT SOVIET, EAST GERMAN AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP AND OF 800 CUBANS IN PDRY IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO COUP (REFTEL). HOWEVER WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO MAKE AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT AND CAN NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THESE REPORTS.

3. MAURITANIA - A BLOODLESS MILITARY COUP TOOK PLACE IN NOUAKCHOTT DURING THE NIGHT OF JULY 9-10 AND RESULTED IN THE OVERTHROW OF MOKHTAR OULD DADDAH'S CIVILIAN REGIME. MAURITANIA'S CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN SUSPENDED; THE PARLIAMENT AND MAURITANIA'S PEOPLE'S PARTY HAS BEEN DISSOLVED. A NEW CABINET WAS NAMED ON JULY 12, COMPRISED OF BOTH MILITARY OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS. MAURITANIA IS NOW BEING GOVERNED BY A MILITARY COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL RECOVERY (MCNR) COMPRISED OF EIGHTEEN SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS. THE MCNR HAS PLEDGED TO HONOR ALL MAURITANIAN FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS. THE PRESIDENT OF THE MCNR IS LT. COL. MOUSTAPHA OULD MOHAMED SALECK, FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE MAURITANIAN ARMY AND REPORTEDLY THE LEADER OF THE COUP. EX-PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH IS REPORTEDLY UNDER HOUSE ARREST ALONG WITH SOME MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET. MANY OF THE OFFICERS IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT ARE FRENCH-TRAINED, AND ARE CONSIDERED PRO-WESTERN AND CONSERVATIVE. THE MCNR HAS PUBLICLY STATED ITS INTENTION TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY TIES WITH ITS

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TRADITIONAL ALLIES, FRANCE AND MOROCCO. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THE TAKEOVER BY THE MCNR WAS A PRE-EMPTIVE COUP TO HEAD OFF A BLOODY REVOLT OF THE MASSES THAT THE NEW MAURITANIAN LEADERSHIP CONSIDERED INEVITABLE. THE MCNR'S GOALS ARE TO REVITALIZE THE ECONOMY BY GETTING THE IRON ORE PRODUCTION MOVING AGAIN, TO MAKE THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION MORE EFFECTIVE, AND TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT. FOREIGN REACTION TO THE GOVERNMENT COUP SO FAR HAS GENERALLY BEEN ONE OF WAIT AND SEE, ALTHOUGH FIRST REACTIONS IN RABAT AND DAKAR WERE THOSE OF ALARM. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE COUP WAS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR AND NO FOREIGN POWERS WERE INVOLVED.

CHRISTOPHER

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